

Message Text

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46

ACTION OC-05

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CCO-00 /016 W

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R 111040Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5110

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: ACOM, OSCI, EG

SUBJECT: POUCH DELAYS

REF: STATE 7713

1. POST IS EXPERIENCING EXCESSIVE DELAYS IN RECEIVING POUCH MATERIAL FROM THE DEPARTMENT. AFTER IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW FREQUENCY AND ROUTING PROCEDURES NOTED IN REFTEL, WE CAREFULLY MONITORED ACTUAL IN-TRANSIT TIMES FROM POUCH CLOSURE IN DEPARTMENT TO OPENING IN CAIRO. THE AVERAGE IS FOUR TO FIVE DAYS AND THIS WE ACCEPT. THE PROBLEM SEEMS TO BE SOMEWHERE BETWEEN DATE STAMPING OF CORRESPONDENCE AND CLOSURE OF POUCHES. THE BELOW RANDOM SAMPLING OF AIRGRAMS WAS TAKEN FROM A POUCH DISPATCHED FROM DEPARTMENT ON JULY 3 AND RECEIVED IN CAIRO ON JULY 7, 1975.

A. A-4125 DATED JUNE 16 (MARKED PRIORITY)

B. A-4294 DATED JUNE 24

C. A-4398 DATED JUNE 26 (MARKED PRIORITY).

D. A-4426 DATED JUNE 27 (THIS AIRGRAM WAS DRAFTED BY USDA JUNE 17 AND HAD ENCLOSURES DATED JUNE 19).

E. A-4540 DATED JULY 2.

2. THESE DELAYS MAKE IT PARTICULARLY DIFFICULT TO ADMINISTER THE SCIENTIFIC GRANT PROGRAMS WHICH, BECAUSE OF BULKY DOCUMENTATION
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REQUIREMENTS, DEPEND ALMOST 80 PERCENT ON UNCLASSIFIED POUCH TRAFFIC.

3. REQUEST DEPARTMENT REMIND PARTICIPATING AGENCIES THAT TIME LAG BETWEEN SENDER AND RECIPIENT CAN BE LENGTHY AND WHERE POSSIBLE ACTION REQUESTS BE TRANSMITTED TELEGRAPHICALLY. WHERE NOT POSSIBLE, AGENCY SHOULD MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO EXPEDITE DELIVERY OF POUCH MATERIAL TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

4. IF, IN FACT, MATERIAL IS BEING HELD AS LONG AS TWO WEEKS (I.E. A-4125 ABOVE) IN THE DEIPLOMATIC POUCH ROOM, POST RECOMMENDS THAT DEPARTMENT CONSIDER MORE FREQUENT TRANSMISSION OF AIRGRAMS AND SIMILAR MATERIAL.
EILTS

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: ShawDG
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Disposition History: n/a
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